

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OSLO 01507 010735Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 PM-05 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
/043 W

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FM AMEMBASSY OSLO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5536
INFO SECDEF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 1507

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (BROWN, HAROLD)
SUBJ: SECDEF VISIT: TALKING POINTS PAPER: NORWEGIAN DEFENSE
SPENDING

1. DURING THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE VISIT, IT IS POSSIBLE
THAT HIS HOSTS MAY RAISE THE ISSUE OF DEFENSE SPENDING. IF
THEY DO NOT, WE RECOMMEND SECDEF RAISE IT.

2. IN EITHER EVENT, WE RECOMMEND A STATEMENT ALONG THE
FOLLOWING LINES:

--THE USG RECOGNIZES THAT NORWAY IS GOING THROUGH A
TRYING ECONOMIC PERIOD.

--WE BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT THE NORWEGIAN ECONOMY IS IN-
HERENTLY STRONG ENOUGH TO ALLOW THE GON TO MEET ITS DE-
FENSE REQUIREMENTS. FAILURE TO DO SO WOULD WEAKEN NORWAY'S
DEFENSE AND, THROUGH LACK OF DEFENSE INFRASTRUCTURE, LIMIT
THE ABILITY OF OTHER ALLIES TO FULFILL THEIR WARTIME RE-
INFORCEMENT ROLES.

--THE PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACT OF THE ALLIANCE'S WEALTHIEST
MEMBER FAILING TO MEET EVEN THE MINIMUM 3 PERCENT
DEFENSE GOAL, PREVIOUSLY AGREED TO AT THE DPC, WOULD
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BE FELT THROUGHOUT NATO AND COULD WEAKEN THE RE-
SOLVE OF GOVERNMENTS WITH LESS FORTUNATE ECONOMIC
PROSPECTS THAN NORWAY.

3. THE ALLIANCE HAS RECENTLY CONCLUDED A MAJOR AND
SUBSTANTIAL ANALYSIS OF ITS WEAKNESSES AND IS RECOM-
MENDING LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE

WASHINGTON SUMMIT. THE MAINTENANCE OF AN ADEQUATE
NATO DEFENSE POSTURE REQUIRES THAT ALL OF US APPROACH
THE MAY MEETING WITH A FIRM RESOLVE TO IMPLEMENT THE
REMEDIAL PROGRAM.
BREMER

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